

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 4, 9 and 14 have been amended to more particularly point out the present invention and to more clearly differentiate the invention of this application from the prior art cited by the Examiner. Claims 1-16 remain for consideration.

The present invention pertains to a fluid filter for reducing the acidity of engine oil in a vehicle engine. As described in the specification, the undesirable acidity in the engine oil results from the sulfur compounds that react with the moisture from combustion to form an acidic solution and by carbon particles or soot resulting from incomplete combustion in the engine. Applicants determined that a sacrificial material, such as, zinc, could be used to maintain the pH of the oil to increase the life of the oil and the life of the engine. The Koehler patent and the Underdown publication have nothing to do with a filter for reducing the acidity of oil in an engine. Both Koehler and Underdown pertain to filters for subterranean wells. Koehler is concerned with a filter for removing liquid or gas from the ground without bringing soil particulates, such as sand or clay up with it. Underdown is concerned with back flushing or otherwise removing contaminants from one or more membranes utilized in a membrane separator located down hole in a hydrocarbon producing well. Koehler and Underdown are unrelated to the present invention and do not teach or suggest the present invention.

The internal teachings of Koehler and Underdown are so different, there is no reason found in the references themselves for the combustion proposed by the Examiner. Even if it were permissible to combine these references, applicant's invention would not result. The filters of Koehler and Underdown function in the ground and are not intended for use in a vehicle engine. There is no teaching in either Koehler or Underdown of reducing the acidity of engine oil to increase the life of the oil and the life of the engine through which it flows. There is no

suggestion in either Koehler or Underdown to use zinc as a sacrificial material to maintain the pH of the oil. In Koehler, there is recognition that the filters in subterranean wells be capable of resisting the well fluids, which are at a high temperature and extremely corrosive. This is entirely different from the present invention where the concept is to reduce the acidity of the engine oil or to maintain the pH of the engine oil to increase the length between oil changes and increase engine life. Claims 1-6 and 9-16 patentably distinguish over the combination of Koehler and Underdown suggested by the Examiner and should be allowed.

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected as being unpatentable over Koehler in view of Underdown in further view of Whitlock and Echols. The deficiencies of Koehler and Underdown have been discussed above. Neither Echols nor Whitlock overcome the noted deficiencies. Echols and Whitlock each pertain to filters for subterranean wells bores.

Neither Echols nor Whitlock recognize the problem addressed by applicants and solution arrived at by applicants, which is the subject matter of the present application. Filters for subterranean well bores are large and are designed to withstand high compressive forces in use. Inherently, they are different from and do not teach or suggest the vehicle fluid filters of the present invention. Claims 7 and 8 patentably distinguish over the combination of Koehler, Underdown, Echols and Whitlock. The allowance of Claims 7 and 8 is urged.

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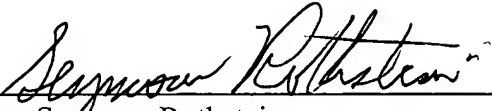


- 7 -

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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